

## Mission Area Overview: Alternative Technologies and Approaches Project

### What is the Alternative Technologies and Approaches Project?

The Alternative Technologies and Approaches Project, or ATAP, is a mission area under the U.S. Army's Chemical Materials Agency (Provisional). Originally, ATAP was tasked to investigate alternatives to incineration for the disposal of the chemical agent stockpiles at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.

Over the years, ATAP fulfilled its original mission and selected neutralization as the disposal method. ATAP's mission then shifted to focus on pilot testing neutralization at the Indiana and Maryland sites.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, ATAP worked with multiple state and federal agencies and developed methods to expedite safe destruction of the Indiana and Maryland stockpiles using neutralization. Approval to use these methods was received in 2002. The Maryland and Indiana chemical agent stockpiles should be destroyed at least two years earlier than originally scheduled.

Additionally, ATAP monitors business, science and technology for advancements that could be useful to destroy the nation's remaining stockpile of chemical agent safely.

### When did the project start and where is it headquartered?

The Army established ATAP in 1994. ATAP headquarters are located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

### Why were the stockpiles in Indiana and Maryland selected?

These locations store only agent in large steel containers without explosives or other weapon components. In addition, each of these stockpiles has only one type of chemical agent. This simple configuration, was ideal for piloting alternative disposal methods.

### Why was neutralization selected?

After extensive research for technologies that could possibly be used to destroy the agent, ATAP selected three viable alternative technologies and neutralization-based technologies for further examination. Three independent groups reviewed each technology to determine which could destroy the bulk agent stockpile while meeting all of the legal and regulatory requirements for safety, environmental protection and cost effectiveness. All three review groups, as well as the Citizens' Advisory Commissions for Indiana and Maryland, recommended neutralization as the best process.

### Who manages the project?

The ATAP project manager, a high-level civilian Army employee, is responsible for hundreds of military, civilian and contract workers dedicated to ensuring the project's success. The ATAP project manager reports to the Chemical Materials Agency (Provisional). There also are many independent organizations that provide regulatory assistance and oversight to ATAP, including Congress, Department of Defense, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

### How can I learn more?

The Army encourages you to learn more about this important mission by calling the Public Outreach and Information Office toll free at (800) 488-0648 or visiting its Web site at [www.cma.army.mil](http://www.cma.army.mil). To learn more about neutralization, please read the fact sheet entitled "Neutralization of Chemical Agents."

For more information,  
contact the  
Public Outreach and  
Information Office of the  
Chemical Materials  
Agency (Provisional)  
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